

The State of Washington's Office of the Governor  
**Education Ombudsman**  
Summer 2006  
ISS-001

The Governor's Office is seeking qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic candidates for the newly created office of the Education Ombudsman. This office was created in statute this past year to assist Washington parents, families and students in maximizing their access to and success in the state's K-12 system.

### **Background**

The 2006 legislature authorized the creation of the Office of Education Ombudsman within the Office of the Governor. The goal of this legislation is to create an office of public K-12 education assistance and communication that is independent of current educational structures. To read the full text of the legislation, please see [ESHB 3127, Chapter 116, Laws of 2006](#), which describes the powers and duties of the Office.

The Education Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor, and per statute, information regarding the successful candidate will be shared with a bicameral and bipartisan committee of six members prior to the appointment.

### **Role**

The Director Ombudsman will report to the Deputy Chief of Staff and will serve as a neutral and independent resource to provide parents and community members information on parental involvement related to state education standards and programs. This Office will assist and support Washington parents, families and communities in helping all students be successful in the K-12 system.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Identify, delegate, certify and lead regional ombudsmen whose duties include providing information to the public regarding the public education system
- Develop parent involvement materials and serve as a resource for information and referral
- Assess and determine obstacles to greater parent and community involvement in schools and strategize solutions
- Identify strategies for improving success in student groups with disproportionate academic achievement and refer or facilitate the resolution of complaints
- Consult with various organizations and groups in the conduct of the work of the Ombudsman's Office

- Advise and make recommendations to the Legislature, Governor and State Board of Education regarding the ombudsman's services as well as possible strategies for increasing community involvement in public education, and improving educational opportunities for all students

### **Desirable Qualifications**

The Office of the Governor is most interested in candidates who meet or exceed the following profile:

- Strong personal commitment to public education, access and equal opportunity for all Washington students
- Significant experience and relevant education in the areas of public education law and policy
- Relevant program management experience
- Demonstrated track record of successful community outreach and public involvement
- Knowledge of or familiarity with issues facing minority students, families and communities
- Training and experience in mediation, interest-based negotiating and dispute resolution
- Superlative communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with a broad spectrum of people including elected officials, legislators, education professionals, students, parents, interest groups and community members
- Judicial temperament and proven ability to handle high profile, contentious or emotionally-charged issues
- History of and commitment to maintaining confidentiality as required by the Office

### **Compensation**

The Director Ombudsman serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is exempt from civil service. Maximum annual compensation is **\$80,000**. Washington State offers a generous benefits package including medical/dental, retirement, life and disability insurance, optional deferred compensation, and paid holidays as well as vacation and sick leave.

### **Application Procedure**

Individuals interested in this position may apply by e-mailing a current resume that includes employment history and education, a detailed letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications listed in this announcement and the voluntary [Data Profile sheet](#). Only those individuals who demonstrate the desired qualifications will be considered. Applicants of interest will be personally contacted by the recruiter for further or more detailed information. Please send materials to:

Judith Brighton, Island Search Services – ISS-001  
Office: (760) 720-1767

E-mail: [wa.ed.omb@gmail.com](mailto:wa.ed.omb@gmail.com)

Please make reference to search number ISS-001 in the subject line  
of your e-mail submittal.

Resumes must be received no later than **July 15, 2006**. ***Candidate evaluation will be ongoing, and it will be to the applicant's advantage to submit materials as soon as possible.*** The hiring authority reserves the right and may exercise the option to make a decision at any time.

The State of Washington actively supports diversity in the workplace and is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants wishing assistance or alternative formats in the process should contact **Judith Brighton** at [judithvita@gmail.com](mailto:judithvita@gmail.com).